



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

News Release

For Immediate Release: July 6, 2021

COUNTY OF KAUA'I
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
SARAH K. BLANE, CHIEF OF STAFF
(808) 241-4900

Kaua'i moving to Tier 5 and ending Resort Bubble program Thursday

LĪHU'E – Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami issued an amended emergency rule that will end the Resort Bubble program and move the County to Tier 5 on Thursday, July 8.

Governor David Ige approved [Mayor's Emergency Rule #19 Amendment #4](#) last week. The amended rule sets Thursday as the date for the County of Kaua'i to move to Tier 5 on the Kaua'i Business & Recreational Guidelines for COVID-19 chart, as the state reaches the previously announced milestone of [60 percent of residents fully vaccinated](#).

"As of Thursday, Tier 5 will allow gatherings of up to 75 people outdoors or 25 indoors," said Mayor Kawakami. "Restaurants, gyms, buses, and attractions will be able to operate at 75 percent capacity. "Once Hawai'i reaches 70 percent fully vaccinated, we will move to Tier 6 and eliminate all restrictions."

Vaccination is free and available to everyone age 12 and older. Most clinics, hospitals, and pharmacies on Kaua'i now accept walk-ins without an appointment. For details, please visit kauai.gov/vaccine.

The amended emergency rule also ends the County's Resort Bubble program on July 8, the same day the State of Hawai'i [eliminates its pre-travel testing/quarantine requirement](#) for domestic travelers to Hawai'i who have been fully vaccinated in the United States.

“The Resort Bubbles helped keep Kauaʻi safe from community spread of COVID-19 by isolating travelers until they could take a post-arrival test, as recommended by the CDC,” said Mayor Kawakami.

“Now that vaccine exceptions are going into effect, and our hotels are near capacity, the program is no longer necessary. Mahalo to all the resorts who participated in keeping our community safe and opening until vaccines became widely available.”

“The program allowed travelers to keep their rescheduled vacations to come to Kauaʻi safely without being locked in their rooms, and it enabled participating resorts to stay open during the difficult months of the pandemic,” said Kauaʻi Visitors Bureau Executive Director Sue Kanoho. “Now that millions of Americans have been vaccinated, and Kauaʻi has a reputation as one of the safest places in the country, most of our properties have returned to near capacity.”

The Resort Bubble program was created after Kauaʻi health officials found dozens of COVID-19 cases last fall in travelers who had a negative pre-travel test, then tested positive days after arriving. To prevent community spread, County officials opted out of the State’s pre-travel-only testing program in December 2020, then implemented the Resort Bubble program that mandated post-travel testing more than three days after arrival. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that unvaccinated travelers “get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home or otherwise self-quarantine for 7 days after travel,” even if they test negative before their trip (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>). Once vaccines became available to all visitor industry and transportation employees, Kauaʻi health officials endorsed rejoining the Safe Travels pre-travel testing program in early April.

[Beginning July 8](#), Trans-Pacific travelers to Hawaiʻi can receive a quarantine exception by uploading their CDC-issued vaccination record card to the state’s Safe Travels Program website and having that card with them upon arrival in the State of Hawaiʻi. For more information on the state’s Safe Travels program, visit hawaiiicovid19.com/travel. Those who plan to travel can protect themselves and their families by being fully vaccinated before traveling.

For more information on the County of Kauaʻi's COVID-19 emergency rules, visit
kauai.gov/COVID-19.

###